

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

2006-2011 STRATEGIC PLAN

Adopted July 27, 2006

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION 2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Delta is a fragile ecosystem that serves as a vital natural resource and hub of economic activity. The Delta Protection Act of 1992 (Act) is intended to protect and enhance the Delta's resources as provided for in the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta (Regional Plan). The Strategic Plan, a product of the Delta Protection Commission's (Commission) visioning process, is meant to further the Commission's implementation of the Act and Regional Plan.

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OVERVIEW OF OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

The purpose of the Commission is to protect, preserve and enhance the Delta as it exists today serving multiple functions, including, but not limited to:

- agricultural land preservation;
- habitat protection; and
- enhancing recreational opportunities.

Opportunities for achieving the above purposes include:

- infrastructure bond funding;
- grants;
- collaborate with relevant local, state, federal, and private sector entities;
- participate in Delta visioning; and
- propose legislation to expand Commission representation and enhance effectiveness.

Threats to the above include:

- insufficient levee integrity (including subsidence);
- proximity to seismic fault zones;
- population growth and increased demands on all infrastructure elements of the Delta;
- potential increase in water supply demands for 23 million plus Californians;
- urban encroachment in the Primary and Secondary Zones;
- market pressures on agribusiness, i.e., conversion of ag land to non-agriculture uses;
- insufficient integrated regional planning and implementation;
- disputes over public access;
- environmental influences such as invasion of non-native species in the waterways, rising ocean levels, water quality issues etc; and
- greater need for Commission stewardship and social responsibility, e.g., abandoned vessels, dumping and pollution.

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Vision:

The Delta in the year 2011 is a dynamic and living system.

Health Indicators for the Delta:

- An integrated approach to water, land use and resource management planning sufficient to protect, maintain, enhance and restore the cultural and economic sustainability of residents, businesses, agricultural and recreational interests consistent with a healthy ecosystem;
- Sufficient flood protection (e.g., levee maintenance and improvement, and subsidence mitigation) for residential, commercial, agricultural and public infrastructure; and
- Sufficient fresh water flow and water quality in and through the Delta to meet the needs of Delta water users (residential, commercial and agricultural), recreation, habitat preservation and water quality.

Mission:

To protect, maintain, and where possible, enhance and restore the overall quality of the Delta environment consistent with the Delta Protection Act and the Regional Plan, including, but not limited to agriculture, wildlife habitat and recreational activities; to ensure orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources and improved flood protection.

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Program Strategy: *Fully implement the Act.*

- 1.) Effectively integrate the Regional Plan into local government general plans.
 - Work proactively with local planning departments to ensure full integration of the Regional Plan into general plans.
- 2.) Act as the appeal body for inconsistencies between general plans and the Regional Plan.
- 3.) Implement the Regional Plan on a prioritized basis and consistent with the Act.
 - Develop and implement annual work plans that target implementation needs flexibly and in partnership with stakeholders.
- 4.) Participate actively in the development of a long-range Delta-wide vision and management plan in which the Regional Plan would be included.
- 5.) Initiate a proactive approach to collaborative participation in legislative and regulatory efforts so that the Commission's influence is represented in all discussions of proposed relevant legislation and regulatory change.

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Funding Strategy: *Fully develop funding strategies permitted under the Act.*

- 1.) Continue to receive funds as designated under the Act.
 - Submit a Budget Change Proposal in 2006 – 2007 to restore budget for 2007 – 2008.
- 2.) Maximize funding allowable under the Act.
 - Apply for grants;
 - Pursue bond opportunities;
 - Consider member contributions for specific activities and tasks; and
 - Pursue other financial support as permitted by the Act, such as gifts, donations, rents, royalties, and other financial support from private sources.
- 3.) Efficiently manage the Commission's resources.
 - Streamline Budget Unit components.
- 4.) Participate in collaborative efforts to develop funding strategies that fully consider the economic benefits and costs of achieving the Commission's vision of the Delta.
- 5.) Promote strategies for the funding, acquisition, and maintenance of voluntary cooperative arrangements, such as conservation easements between property owners and conservation groups that protect wildlife habitat and agricultural land, while not impairing the integrity of infrastructure, including levees.

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Leadership Strategy: *Develop and maintain the partnership between Commission and staff.*

1.) Ensure a well-informed and effective membership body of Commissioners that reflects the diversity of Delta stakeholders.

- Develop and implement Commissioner orientation program.
- Establish meeting attendance norms and processes.

2.) Hire the best qualified and highest performing staff possible to carry out the responsibilities of the Commission, consistent with the Act, this Strategic Plan and the Administrative Work Plan.

- Evaluate long-term needs for positions and levels of expertise.
- Develop comprehensive human resources policies and implement these consistently for all staff according to State requirements and policies.